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February 12, 2020 Agenda Item: 4.b

To: Governing Board, SMBRC

From: Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director

Re: Review of Draft Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program Fiscal

Year 2021 Annual Work Plan

**Action Requested of the Governing Board:** 

None

## **Background**

Each year, SMBRC collaborates with The Bay Foundation (TBF) to develop and submit an annual work plan of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) to US EPA that identifies the expected tasks and activities necessary to implement the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Upon approval of the annual work plan by the Governing Board, US EPA awards the annual federal Clean Water Act Section 320 NEP grant to TBF, uses the annual work plan to track grant expenditures and progress toward achieving the NEP's objectives and to compile information on the environmental outcomes of the annual work plan's implementation.

The annual work plan for the federal fiscal year 2021 (FY 2021) covers the time period between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021 and it must be submitted to US EPA before the end of April to meet the deadlines for work plan review and approval by US EPA.

The FY 2021 Work Plan will build on the CCMP Action Plan adopted in October 2018 and the work plan for the current fiscal year (FY 2020). The purpose of Work Plan is to identify program objectives, tasks, and timelines of the work to be performed during FY 2021, specifically focused on accomplishing a subset of the identified Actions and Next Steps in the 2018 CCMP Action Plan, as well as various technical, managerial, and administrative activities necessary to continue to advance the mission of SMBNEP.

The structure and format of the FY 2021 Work Plan is similar to the FY 2020 Work Plan, which retains consistency between the CCMP Action Plan and annual work plans, as well as meets US EPA funding guidance. Many of the priorities and actions also remain similar due to the fact that they are continuations of multi-year tasks.





The draft FY 2021 Work Plan will be distributed and posted for public review and presented at the Governing Board meeting on February 20, 2020. A Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 5th from 10 am to 12 pm to inform and receive input on the draft FY 2021 Work Plan. It will be conducted in a facilitated workshop format in collaboration with TBF. All Governing Board members, other WAC members, stakeholders, as well as the general public are encouraged to participate. Written comments will also be accepted prior to and after the WAC meeting. The FY 2021 Work Plan will be finalized after incorporating comments and input received, and completion of the sections on budget and staffing, which are still under development. The approval of the FY 2021 Work Plan is tentatively scheduled for the April 16, 2020 Governing Board meeting.